Non-Acceptance of Five Hundred Rupees Note

†2669. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Embassy of Thailand and High Commissioners of the Singapore and Malaysia have refused to accept 500 Rupee note;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has drawn the attention of Ministries of External Affairs and Finance towards the matter; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken by Government in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Although, there were reports regardmg non-acceptance of 500 Rupee note by the High Commissioner of the Malaysia and Singapore as well as Embassy of Thailand, these High Commissions/ Embassy of Thailand have denied the same.

(b) and (c) All the foreign diplomatic missions have been advised to accept notes of Rs. 500 denomination from Indian nationals for normal diplomatic services. They have also been advised to contact a designated officer of the Reserve Bank of India in case of any doubt about the genuineness of any Indian currency or any other matter connected therewith.

AIDS affected persons under insurance cover

†2670. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to bring 'AIDS' affected persons under insurance cover;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has informed that under general principles of underwriting of insurance, which is accepted all over the world, insurance cover is not granted to certain category of persons including AIDS/HIVafiFectedpersons. However, LIC does not withdraw the insurance cover given to a person who is akeady having a life insurance policy and who subsequently contracts HIV/AIDS.

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†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.